

in 2002. This is an increase of 3.9 million people in just 3 years. Of the 12.1 million households that were food insecure in 2002, 3.8 million suffered from such severe food insecurity that they are classified as hungry.

The root cause of most food insecurity and hunger in America is poverty. It is unconscionable that in 2004 there are people in this country who do not have enough money to buy food. Approximately 35 million Americans live in poverty, about the same number of people who were food insecure and hungry. The correlation is obvious. The poorest people in this country are going hungry. The sad reality is that every day there are parents who sacrifice their own food so that their kids can eat.

I recently read a speech by my friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, delivered at Iowa State University in 1998. In that speech, Senator Wellstone recalled how he traveled to the Mississippi Delta after reading the book "Let Them Eat Promises" by Nick Kotz, following in the footsteps of Robert Kennedy. Senator Wellstone was so moved by the story about how Robert Kennedy, when touring the country to see firsthand the poverty and hunger that ravaged parts of this Nation, tried to connect with a young boy in the Mississippi Delta. When the boy would not even respond because of his severe malnourishment, Bobby Kennedy just broke down and cried.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if we left this Capitol building right now and traveled to another part of Washington or another city and town in America, we would find a similar situation. On that July day at Iowa State University, Senator Wellstone asked his audience, "Can't we do better?" Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is, yes, we can.

During the last several decades, Congress has passed landmark legislation providing nutritious meals for low-income children and families. While the programs created over the last century do not adequately address the problem of poverty in America, they help in part to alleviate the food insecurity caused by poverty. These programs are vitally important and have improved the quality of millions of lives since their adoption.

The school lunch program, the school breakfast program, WIC and food stamps are just a few of the landmark programs that make up the core of our antihunger safety net here in the United States. Many of these programs are up for reauthorization this year, and our colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, led by the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER), have produced a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and expands many of these programs.

While I am disappointed that this bill, as currently drafted, does not go farther than it does, it is a good bill

considering the circumstances under which it was drafted, and I am looking forward to its consideration in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, while these programs are important and need to be reauthorized and expanded, issues I will talk about at a later date, we cannot continue to ignore the fact that poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and hunger here in the United States.

We have a moral responsibility to end food insecurity and hunger. We have a moral responsibility to end and combat poverty. We can achieve these goals if we have the moral and political courage to do so.

The President recently challenged us to do what is necessary to put a man on Mars. That is a fine goal; but I would submit that a better, more urgent goal is combating hunger and ending poverty. We should begin a new war on poverty.

Let us utilize all that the government and the private sector can do to undertake this challenge. Only then will we end the scourge of food insecurity and hunger.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the gentleman from New Hampshire's (Mr. BRADLEY) place at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AUTHORITIES ARE CLOSE TO CAPTURING OSAMA BIN LADEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today we have received tantalizing reports that Pakistani authorities may be close to arresting Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al Zawahiri.

We do not know if this is true, but we do know that hundreds of American men and women in uniform are currently risking their lives as part of Operation Mountain Storm to arrest high-level terrorists in the critical border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This border region was the safe haven for the world's most wanted man. Osama bin Laden lived there for many years since his first visit to the region during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

This January, I conducted a mission to this region to review the operations of the State Department's terrorist rewards program. This program was highly successful in helping the arrest of key international criminals important to the United States. The program led to the arrest, capture, or death of two-thirds of U.N. war criminals in Bosnia. It led to the arrest, prosecution, and execution of Mir Aimal Kasi who killed many Americans outside the CIA gate in Virginia. By the way, Mr. Kasi was arrested in the very region of Pakistan receiving so much attention today. The program also led to the arrest and death of Uday and Qusay Hussein, the two Hussein brothers, sons of Saddam Hussein.

As a congressional staffer, I drafted the bill that lifted the rewards program from 5 to \$25 million and allowed its use against U.N. war criminals. Based on my January mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan, we found the need for more reforms. We asked to raise the award for Osama bin Laden's arrest to \$50 million and to make the payment of cash rewards more flexible so that in rural communities we could provide trucks or farm implements that could be a much more motivating factor with rural families.

In the frontier autonomous tribal region that we are focusing so heavily on today, we face a population largely illiterate, very poor and speaking the Wasari tribal language. In making these reforms, we need the State Department to do media surveys and use more radio and TV, which is much more appropriate to communicating with large, illiterate communities.

These ideas would all combine with one other idea: Osama bin Laden has slowly been changing his source of financing. He used to depend on Wahabi donations, his personal fortune and donations from Europe, but those sources of funding have largely dried up under a series of United Nations legal orders.

Today, Osama bin Laden stands as one of the world's number one sellers of heroin. Haji Bashir Noorzai of Canada provides him with 2,000 kilograms of heroin every 8 weeks, giving bin Laden from that source alone \$28 million a year. In mid-December, the United States Navy arrested three dhows in the Arabian Gulf that contained methamphetamine, hashish, and heroin worth \$10 million, an attempt by bin Laden to move from the Pakistani market where he gets \$2,000 per kilogram of heroin to the United Arab Emirates where he would get \$10,000 per kilogram.

Osama bin Laden has more money access to his fortune than ever before, and these ideas need to be incorporated into our new bill, H.R. 3782, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act. That act just passed the House of Representatives an hour ago by a vote of 414 to 0, a monument to bipartisan cooperation on a critical national security issue of the United States. The passage of this bill